

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Ms. Barbara Gregory
(Please Forward to Mr. Mark Rabinowitz)
American Numismatic Association
818 N. Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

October 24, 2001

Dear Mr. Rabinowitz:

I read with great interest your article in the November 2001 The Numismatist entitled "The Remarkable Collections of Emmet and Myers".

Your passionate enthusiasm for the subject was very evident. The research undertaken by you must have been enormous. You have shown how important it is for collections to be made available to the public as well as assembling the personal life history of the donors. I mention these collections along with others on page 28 of my 4th edition and prior editions of Early Paper Money of America. I examined the collections long ago.

I feel I must call your attention to your comment on page 1354, col. 2. that I omitted some Delaware items from my book. I do not believe I did but the text composition was too crowded. If you believe I am correct the editor may wish to publish a correction. I only wish you had notified me first as others with suggestions often do. It may be fun to correct others but not to leave egg on your face.

If at any time you wish to see some of our collection in St. Louis I think you would enjoy it.

Keep researching and writing,



Eric P. Newman

Cc: Barbara Gregory

180 Mar Len Drive
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951
November 18, 2001

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

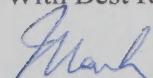
I recently received your letter concerning my article in the November issue of *The Numismatist*. You were correct, I misread the information in your book, and a correction is in order. I have drafted a letter to the editor to correct this error, and have provided it to Barbara Gregory by e-mail. A copy is attached for your information.

I appreciate your kind words and encouragement. Coming from you, these are truly meaningful. Over the past four years, as I have become deeply involved in collecting and researching colonial and continental paper money, your research and your numerous publications have been of tremendous value to me and I have frequently been in awe of their depth and accuracy. This makes my error all the more embarrassing to me, as I noted in the attached letter.

Quite frankly, the thought of contacting you before publishing the article with the offending comment in it never occurred to me. Until now, I would never have known how to contact you, and in any event, the comment was not at all intended to be a "knock" on your research. To me, and I believe to all those knowledgeable in the field, if such a statement were true, it would be the most telling comment one could make about the rarity of an item – if it isn't in your book, it must have done a stellar job of hiding over the years since you found just about everything there is. To me, referring to you this way – had it turned out to be accurate – would not be a criticism but in fact a tribute to the recognized thoroughness of your research: it is the standard against which all is measured. As I mentioned, you have been a source of inspiration to me, and I would never have dreamed of saying anything negative about you.

Of course, it did not turn out to be true, and therein lies the reason that I should have found a way to ask you about it beforehand. You can be certain that if any such thing happens again, whether it be regarding your or anyone else's research, I will make every effort to contact the researcher or ask the editors to help me do so. The last thing I would want is to embarrass you, and all I can say now is that it certainly was unintentional. Nonetheless, I apologize sincerely and hope you can accept it.

With Best Regards,



Mark Rabinowitz

COPY OF LETTER TO THE EDITOR SENT TO BARBARA GREGORY

My recent article "The Remarkable Collections of Emmet and Myers" (*The Numismatist*, November 2001) contains an error which requires correction. On page 1354, column 2, I indicated that five of the eight denominations of May 1, 1777 Delaware colonial notes in the Myers Collection were "not listed in Newman." This is incorrect. Newman's *Early Paper Money of America* lists all twelve denominations of that issue (in the most recent edition, this can be seen on page 123). I misread the book when preparing the article. My excitement in describing the contents of Emmet's and Myers's collections was unbounded and when it first seemed to me that these notes were omitted from Newman's reference, I must have been mentally willing to accept it because it seemed to add even more credence to the vast extent of the Emmet and Myers holdings. Being well aware from literally hundreds of hours of poring over Mr. Newman's book, I should have known better. This classic reference is a work of truly massive scope and has proven to be accurate down to the last detail on occasion after occasion. Mr. Newman's book has been an inspiration to me as I have proceeded down the path of collecting and researching early American paper money and thus I am all the more embarrassed by my mistake. I should have checked more carefully. I regret the error.

180 Mar Len Drive
Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951

January 19, 2002

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

In your letter of October 24, 2001, regarding my article in *The Numismatist* entitled "The Remarkable Collections of Emmet and Myers," you noted that, "If at any time you wish to see some of our collection in St. Louis I think you would enjoy it." You are right – and I think "enjoy" is a considerable understatement. As you also noted in your letter, I have a passion for the early paper money of America (and *The Early Paper Money of America*, too). For some time, I have been too embarrassed by the error in my article to consider taking you up on your very gracious offer. While my embarrassment has only slightly faded, the temptation posed by your offer has overcome it.

I continue to spend time in research relating to this field, and since that November article have published another one – this time in SPMC's *Paper Money*, in the January/February issue, entitled "Meet the Hillegas Family." I also won the Louis Montesi Best of Show award for my exhibit at the FUN show in Orlando last weekend. Presently, I am deeply immersed in a quest to determine whether the two purported Jewish signers of Continental Currency, Ben Levy and Ben Jacobs, were in fact Jewish – and I believe in the process I have identified another Jewish signer. I hope to publish my research by the summer.

For someone with my collecting and research interest, the opportunity to see some of your collection is an honor. I would truly enjoy the opportunity and would like to make arrangements to travel to St. Louis at a convenient time to take you up on your offer. If you could suggest some possible alternative dates for a visit, I will determine which one best fits my schedule and let you know.

Again, I am so pleased to have this opportunity and hope you will be able to find the time to accommodate my visit.

With warm regards,



Mark Rabinowitz

Phone: 321-727-3941

e-mail: [REDACTED]

8 May 2002

Eric,

Enclosed are 4 copies of each of the digital images that were on the CD you sent. The sizes are very close to those you specified. I'm going to hold on to the CD until you tell me you are satisfied with these – if you need them redone in different sizes, or if you need more copies, just let me know by email and I'll take care of it. When you have everything you need, I'll send the CD back to you.

I have also enclosed a copy of an article from the January 2002 issue of *Wired* magazine that I think you will find interesting. *Wired* uses very small font so I had it enlarged. It is not directly related to the counterfeit detectors but it provides another fascinating perspective on the mechanical ingenuity of American inventors in the 19th century. And, though I have not yet had time to prove it, I suspect that the subject of the article, William Sellers, is a descendent of the Sellers family who were Continental Currency signers and manufacturers of the paper used for the notes. I hope you enjoy it.

Warmest regards,

Mark

Mark